

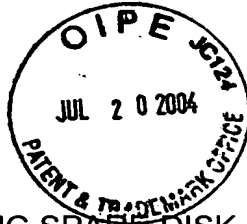
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: H. SATO, et al

Serial No.: 10/767,196

Filing Date: January 30, 2004

For: DISK ARRAY DEVICE HAVING SPARE DISK DRIVE AND DATA
SPARING METHOD



LETTER CLAIMING RIGHT OF PRIORITY

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

July 20, 2004

Sir:

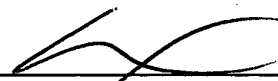
Under the provisions of 35 USC 119 and 37 CFR 1.55, applicants hereby claim
the right of priority based on:

Japanese Application No. 2003-354557
Filed: October 15, 2003

A Certified copy of said application document is attached hereto.

Acknowledgement thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Carl I. Brundidge
Registration No. 29,621
ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

CIB/jdc
Enclosures
703/312-6600